GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1229
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2002
BHOPAL GAS TRAGEDY
LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news regarding Justice to Bhopal Gas Victims appearing in the Hindi daily `Jansatta` dated October 29, 2002;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by the Government for speedy disposal of cases relating to compensation and rehabilitation of Victims?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a): Yes Sir,

(b) & (c): Government is aware of the issues raised in the news report and is committed to provide all possible help to Bhopal Gas victims. It has created an office of the Welfare commissioner under the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster(Processing of Claims) Act, 1985 to adjudicate and disburse compensation to Bhopal gas victims. In all, 10,29,431 cases were filed by the claimants, out of which 10,29,265 cases have been disposed of by the end of 31st October 2002. An amount of Rs.1521.56 crore has been disbursed as compensation. CBI has filed a criminal case in the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bhopal against Union Carbide Corporation and others. 89 prosecution witnesses have been examined, so far. According to information received from CBI, a revised request for extradition of Mr. Warren Anderson is under final stages of preparation. For the medical, social, economic and environmental rehabilitation of Bhopal Gas victims, the Central Government had approved a five year Action Plan with an outlay of Rs.258 crore. This outlay was to be shared between the Government of India and the State Government of Madhya Pradesh in the ratio of 75:25. The Central Government has already released its entire share of Rs.193.50 crore. The State Government is implementing the Action plan.